

Remarks

In the present application, claims 1-27 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 28-41 have been submitted for consideration in an RCE. Applicants reserve the right to resubmit the now cancelled claims in a continuation or other related application.

The new claims are supported by the present specification. For example, claim 28 is supported at page 15, lines 25-31; page 21, lines 24-27; and page 6, lines 18-22. Claim 29 is supported at page 10, lines 31-33 and page 20, lines 10-13. Claim 30 finds support at page 17, line 29 to page 18, line 22. Claim 31 finds support at page 18, lines 3-5. Claim 32 is supported by the disclosure at page 15, lines 26-28. Claim 33 finds support at page 15, lines 27-28. Claim 34 is supported at page 16, lines 6-8. Claim 35 finds support in the disclosure at page 18, lines 8-9 and lines 17-18. Claim 36 finds support at page 21, lines 24-27. Claim 37 is supported at page 6, lines 18-21. Claim 38 is supported at page 20, lines 4-5. Claim 39 finds support at page 20, lines 2-3. Claim 40 finds support at page 20, lines 7-8. Claim 41 finds support in the specification at page 15, lines 25-31; page 17, line 29 to page 18, line 22; page 21, lines 24-27; and at page 6, lines 18-21.

Previously pending claims 10-11, 19, 21-23, and 24-25 were rejected as anticipated by or obvious over US Patent No. 6,267,853 issued to Dordi et al. Claims 10, 12, 15, 20, 26, and 27 were rejected as obvious over the combination of the Dordi et al. patent and US Patent No. 6,344,129 issued to Rodbell et al. Claims 16-18 were rejected as obvious over a combination of the Dordi et al. and Rodbell et al. patents, and further in view of US Patent No. 6,355,153 issued to Uzoh et al. Finally, claims 13 and 14 were rejected as obvious over a combination of the Dordi et al. and Rodbell et al. patents, and further in view of US Patent No. 6,224,737 issued to Tsai et al. and US Patent No. 6,024,856 issued to Haydu et al. Because claims 10-27 have been cancelled, it is respectfully submitted that the above rejections are moot. Again, Applicants have cancelled these claims without prejudice.

The newly submitted claims contain new combinations of limitations that are not suggested in the cited art. For example, the combinations of processing by electrofill of certain types of features and electromechanically polishing or electroplanarizing is not suggested in the prior art.

Conclusion:

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance from the Examiner. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. No fees appear to be necessary for this Amendment. However, if the Commissioner determines that any fee is due, such fee may be charged to deposit account No. 50-0388 (Order No. NOVLP016C1).

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey K. Weaver", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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